

CHESHUNT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

➤❧ **1908,** ❧➤

BY

WALTER F. CLARK,

D.P.H., R.C.S., R.C.P., LOND.,

M.O.H.



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Chestnut Urban District Council.

Manor House.

W. F. CLARK, D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Chestnut, Herts.


May 11 / 09

Dear Sir

Enclosed please find the report for which you ask. There is little in it. When Mr. O. H. 5 leaves Security of Town their reports will perhaps more interest for Sanitarians. I would point out ~~that~~ two copies have already been sent to the B & A one of which was sent for you

Faithfully yours

Walter F. Clark.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
Cheshunt Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my report on the sanitary condition of your district during the year 1908,

The same statistical tables as before are enclosed.

From Table I. you will see that the infant mortality rate is considerably reduced, being slightly below what it has ever been before and considerably below the average for the last ten years.

The general death rate within the district, though higher than last year, is below the average. The inclusion of an unusual number of deaths in public institutions outside your district has raised the nett death rate almost to the average of of the last ten years.

The medical inspection of school children has begun and I am agreeably surprised to find on the whole, such a healthy class of children. Of course there are exceptions and I think this inspection, the full details of which are for the consideration

of the County Council, will be of value in future years in discriminating between the healthy and unhealthy parts of your district.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER F. CLARK.

POPULATION.

In the year 1906, in consequence of the removal from the district of a large number of people, on account of the lack of work, more especially in the government factories, I found that the recognised method of calculating the increase of population would only lead to fallacious results.

I then adopted the plan of calculating from the number of occupied houses in the district allowing an average of 5 persons per house. I have again adopted this method for the year 1908, and I think this will be the only means of obtaining anything like accuracy, until the census of 1911 will give correct numbers from which to start a fresh calculation.

With the kind assistance of Mr. Tydeman, the Rate Collector, who has given me the number of unoccupied houses at the end of June, I find that the number of occupied houses at that date was 2708. Allowing 5 persons to each house, that gives a population at the middle of the year of 13,540 persons.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during the year was 332, the birth rate being 24.4 per thousand. This is better than last

year, but is considerably lower than the average for the last ten years and is a very low rate considering the nature of the population. 155 of the births were those of males, 177 those of females. Ten of these births were those of illegitimate children, a percentage of 3 of the whole number.

Quarter ending	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Males	Females	Total
March 31st	45	45	90	17	26	43
June 30th	48	51	99	16	9	25
Sept. 30th	33	49	82	25	13	38
Dec. 31st	29	32	61	11	19	30

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered in the district was 136, a death rate of 10 per thousand, the average for the previous decade being 11.9 per thousand. An unusual number of deaths of persons belonging to the district has occurred in public institutions outside, namely, 7 in the Workhouse at Edmonton, 15 in that at Enfield, 4 in the Asylum, and 5 in various Hospitals, a total of 31 to be added. There were none to be subtracted.

The nett death rate is thus to be calculated from the total of 167 and is 12.3 per thousand. The average of the previous 10 years being 12.5 per thousand. Of course, most of the deaths in the workhouses were those of aged persons.

The Zymotic death rate is calculated from the number of deaths from the seven principal Zymotic diseases and was 0.4 per thousand.

Disease.			No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1000.
Smallpox	...	...
Measles	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	3	0.2
Whooping Cough	...	...
Diarrhoea	...	...	3	0.2
Fever	(Typhus	...		
	Enteric	...		
	(Continued	...		
			5	0.4

The number of deaths from Phthisis was 11, the death-rate 0.8
 „ Cancer 19, „ 1.4

INFANT MORTALITY.

The number of deaths under one year of age was 21 showing an infant mortality rate of 66.2 per thousand births registered. Of these 21 deaths, 8 were not medically certified and the cause of death was only a supposition.

During the first month after birth, 18 deaths occurred, 5 being uncertified. Five were ascribed to premature birth, three to convulsions and two to Tetanus Neonatorum. From the last named disease, both deaths occurred within a fortnight.

The infant mortality of 22 is 13.2 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

The infant mortality rate is distinctly an improvement on that of previous years. The average for the previous ten years is 114.2. The reasons for this favourable conditions are probably—

A. The year was a cool one and the ground never got hot, and the months of July and August were both wet so the ground was never dry and there was no epidemic of infantile diarrhoea.

b. I think more mothers are endeavouring to feed their infants from the breast.

c. The use of bottles with long tubes is to a certain extent diminishing in favour of those where the teat is directly attached to the bottle. These are much more easily kept clean.

d. More attention is gradually being given to ventilation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The Council's Isolation Hospital has afforded ample accommodation for all cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. Both these diseases prevailed during the first quarter of the year, but an epidemic was prevented. Most of the cases occurred sporadically and their connection could not easily be traced. The schools were kept unusually free from disease and did not become the active centres of propagation of disease which they sometimes have been. I would like to express my appreciation of the prompt information given me by the head teachers.

During the remainder of the year, cases of both diseases occurred sporadically, but there was no epidemic.

Altogether 51 cases were notified. In two cases of Scarlet Fever and in seven of Diphtheria, isolation was declined.

It will be noticed that there were no cases of Enteric Fever in 1907 and 1908. Before that, a few cases always occurred, and those I attributed to oysters or cockles.

Since so much attention has been given to the conditions under which these shell fish were grown, kept and distributed, this district at any rate has been free from Enteric Fever.

I have sometimes been asked what number of cases of infectious disease is likely to occur. No reliable estimate can be formed, but the following numbers of cases occurring in the last ten years shows at any rate what has been.

	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.
Largest number in one year	96	50	6
Smallest „ „	3	4	0
Average of ten years	30	12	3

It should, however, be remembered that the population is increasing, the increase being chiefly in the class who live in cottages, and the number of persons who would probably be removed to Hospital in case of illness is therefore larger.

EPIDEMIOLOGY.

DIPHTHERIA.—24 cases were notified and the number of deaths was 3. 17 cases occurred singly, that is, only one case in a house, in two houses 2 cases, and in one house 3 cases occurred.

The death-rate from Diphtheria was 0.2 per thousand.

17 cases were isolated. In 2 the diagnosis was doubtful.

ERYSIPELAS.—There were 10 cases with no deaths.

SCARLET FEVER.—There were 15 cases notified, there were no deaths. Two of the cases were imported from other districts. In two cases the diagnosis was doubtful. One case was discovered and isolated in London. Three cases occurred in one house, two in another, and the rest were single cases.

PHTHISIS.—There were 11 deaths from Phthisis. 2 of these occurred outside your district. There were 4 deaths from other tuberculous diseases. The Phthisis death-rate was 0.8 per thousand.

CANCER.—There were 19 deaths from Cancer, with a death-rate of 1.4 per thousand. 3 cases occurred outside your district. 10 cases were those of persons over 60 years of age.

RAINFALL.

The rain-guage at the Manor House recorded 23.41 inches during the year. January and February were dry months. In April the fall was above the average, but during July and August the rainfall was the heaviest, being 6.63 inches in the two months. To this fact, and to the temperature of the summer, which was below the average, may be attributed the immunity from infantile diarrhœa to which I have already alluded.

DRAINAGE.

I have had no complaints through the year. As will be seen from the report of your Inspector of Nuisances, some drains have been found defective and dealt with as nuisances.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply has been good and sufficient throughout the year. Two wells supplying four houses in Marsh Lane were found to be impure, but owing to the difficulties raised by the Great Eastern Railway Company in the passage of the small main under their line, the Council's water has not yet been supplied.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

No legal proceedings have been taken under the Act. One notice was served, but the necessary work was undertaken within the month's probation.

As seen from the report of your Inspector, in several cases insanitary houses were rendered more habitable under the provisions of the Public Health Act.

THE WORKSHOPS ACT.

The duties imposed by this Act, which in your district are of a lighter character than in many, have been duly carried out and the lists of outworkers have been regularly received.

BYE-LAWS.

The amended Bye-laws are still under consideration. I believe they have now advanced to the penultimate stage and so will soon come into force.

I found some difficulty myself in remembering the different Acts dealing with sanitation, which have been adopted by the Council, so have thought it as well to put them on record for future reference. They are :—

Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.

Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890.

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act of 1889 was adopted in 1890 but is now made universal by the Act of 1899.

THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Under this order certain cases of Tuberculosis will be notified to the Medical Officer of Health, and in such cases the Council now has power to take certain steps for the prevention of the disease.

The order came into force on January 1st, and since then two cases have been notified in your district.

The principal things you are empowered to do are the following:—The cleansing and disinfection of the rooms and houses occupied by sufferers; the destruction or safe disposal otherwise of all infectious material for the prevention of the spread of infection from such material, and to furnish on loan or otherwise, appliances for the use of poor persons useful as precautions against the spread of infection. Also the Council may provide and publish handbills containing advice or instructions useful in preventing the spread of infection from the disease.

Nothing in the order will empower you to do anything which will subject the patient to any disability as regards himself, his occupation, or mode of living, on the ground of the disease.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

In my report for 1907, I gave a detailed account of your sewage scheme. This has worked well throughout the year. Samples of the effluent are taken monthly and analysed by Dr. Thresh and have invariably been found of a very satisfactory character.

To prevent the land becoming choked by the humus contained in the effluent a detritus tank has been designed to retain the bulk of it and prevent it going on the land.

MILK SUPPLY.

The dairies and cowsheds have been regularly inspected and in a few cases interference has been necessary and effective. There are three dairies only which regularly send milk to London. In this district the cows are universally fed in the open air and only in very severe weather and whilst being milked are they confined in cowsheds.

No cases of infectious disease have been reported in connection with any dairy.

SCAVENGING.

The removal of house refuse is still performed by a contractor, from June to September once a week, and once a fortnight during the rest of the year. I have heard of very few complaints and the work appears to have been better done than ever before.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The Isolation Hospital has been in full working order throughout the year and has been of great use in preventing an epidemic on two or three occasions.

It has been sufficient for all the needs of the district.

The regular supply of information of the existence of infectious illness adopted in 1906 is still in operation and has been of very great service. So far as the Schools are concerned this has been duplicated by the County Council, but I still find our own system preferable.

The disinfection of houses is still carried out as before.

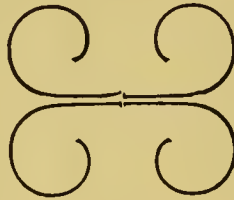


TABLE I.—For Whole District.

Year	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One year of age.		Deaths at all ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions			Deaths at all ages. Nett.	
		Number.	Rate ^a	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate ^a	In the District.	Non-residents dying in the District.	Residents dying beyond the District.	Number.	Rate ^a
1898	11267	350	31	57	162.0	163	14.4	2	5	7	168	14.8
1899	11515	360	33	60	166.0	195	16.9	5	1	8	198	17.2
1900	11770	325	27.6	37	113.8	145	12.3	5		12	156	13.2
1901	12367	358	28.9	55	153.6	172	14.0	5		5	177	14.3
1902	12674	341	26.9	24	70.4	152	11.6	8		5	152	11.9
1903	12988	346	26.9	23	66.5	117	9.0	5		6	123	9.5
1904	13311	349	26.2	40	114.0	147	11.0	5		14	160	12.0
1905	13641	343	25.1	37	107.8	140	10.3	4	1	12	151	11.1
1906	12965	346	26.6	34	98.3	129	9.9	2		10	139	10.7
1907	13280	302	22.7	27	89.4	126	9.5	2		19	145	10.9
Average for years 1898-1907	12577	342	27.5	39	114.2	148	11.9	4	0.7	10	157	12.5
1908	13540	332	24.4	22	66.2	136	10	5	0	31	167	12.33

^a Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District 8,380 acres. Total Population at all ages, 12,292.
 Number of Inhabited Houses, 2480. Average Number per house, 4.95.
 at Census of 1901.

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							Total Cases notified in each Locality.			No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.		
	At all ages	At Ages—Years						1 Waltham X	2 Cheshunt		1	2 H	Total.
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards						
Small-pox ..													
Diphtheria	24		7	13	1	3		11	13		8	10	18
Erysipelas ..	10		1	1	4	4		6	4				
Scarlet Fever	15	1	7	6	1			8	7		5	7	12
Enteric ..													
Totals	49	1	15	20	6	7		55	24		13	17	30

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1908.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at sub-joined ages.						Deaths in localities (at all ages)			
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	2 Waltham Cross	4 Cheshunt	District unknown.
Measles										
Whooping-cough ..										
Diphtheria & membranous croup....	3		1	2						2
Enteric Fever										
Epidemic Influenza	4			1		2	1			
Diarrhœa	3	2	1							
Enteritis	2	1				1				
Phthisis	11			1	2	6	2			
Other tubercular diseases	4	1	1	1	1					
Cancer, malignant disease	19					9	10			
Bronchitis	10	2	2	1		1	4			
Pneumonia	6	1	2			2	1			1
Pleurisy	2					1	1			
Alcoholism & Cirrhosis	1						1			
Premature Birth ..	4	4								
Diseases & accidents of parturition	2				1	1				
Heart diseases.....	13				1	6	6			
Accidents	6				2	3	1			
Suicides	2				1		1			
Rheumatic fever....										
Coroner's certificate	5		2			2	1			
Natural causes										
All other causes	70	11	4	2		13	40			2
All causes	167	22	13	8	8	46	70			5

TABLE V.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1908.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-2 months	2-3 months	3-4 months	4-5 months	5-6 months	6-7 months	7-8 months	8-9 months	9-10 months	10-11 months	11-12 months	Total Deaths under One Year
All causes	Certified ..	3	1	1		5	1	1	3	1	1				1	1		14
	Uncertified ..	5				5		1	1						1			8
Measles												1						1
Diarrhœa									1									1
Enteritis																		1
Gastritis							1											1
Premature Birth ..		4		1		5												5
Congenital Defects ..									1									1
Injury at Birth ..																		
Tuberculous Disease								1										1
Pneumonia																1		1
Convulsions		3				3			1						1			5
Bronchitis								1	1	1								3
Other causes		1	1			2									1			3
Totals		8	1	1		10	1	2	4	1	1				2	1		22

Births in the year—Legitimate 322 ; Illegitimate 10.

Deaths in the year—Legitimate 19 ; Illegitimate 3.

Population estimated to middle of 1908—13540.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

1.—Inspections made by the Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises.		Number of		Written Notices.
		Inspections.		
Factories	4	
Workshops	65	13
			<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	69	13

2.—Defects Found.

Particulars.		Number of Defects	
		Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	...	4	4
Want of ventilation	...	...	...
Overcrowding	...	...	...
Want of drainage to floors	...	1	1
Other nuisances	...	3	3
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation			
Breach of special sanitary requirements for			
bakehouses	...	5	5
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		13	13

3.—Other Matters.

Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors	...	2
Reports of action taken sent to H.M. Inspectors	...	2
Homework—Lists of Outworkers.	Lists.	Outworkers.
Lists received	...	14
Addresses of Outworkers received from		
other Authorities	...	2
Number of Inspections of Outworkers' premises	4	
Workshops on the Register at the end of the year		
in which less than 40 persons are employed	...	19
do. in which more than 40 persons are employed	...	1
Retail Bakehouses	...	16
Laundries	...	3
		<hr/>
Total number of workshops on Register	...	39

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Each Cowshed and Dairy are lime-washed at least twice during the year, as required by the Regulations.

No. of dairymen, cowkeepers or purveyors of milk on Register	36
„ persons registered during the year	3
„ persons given up the trade during the year	2
„ milking cows kept in the district	417
„ inspections	71
„ notices served for offences against the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops' Order and the Regulations made thereunder	25

**SUMMARY OF WORK DONE THROUGH THE SANITARY INSPECTOR IN THE URBAN
SANITARY DISTRICT OF CHESHUNT DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1908.**

	<i>Total Number for Year 1908</i>	<i>Result of Inspection, &c.</i>
1. Complaints received.. ..	31	Notices served when required
2. Nuisances detected without complaint	201	The necessary notices sent 13 not abated on Jan. 1, 1909.
3. Nuisances abated	188	
4. Notices served	103	
5. Summonses taken out	None	
6. Convictions		
7. Cottages inspected	440	Notices served when required to put premises in sanitary condition
8. Lodging-houses inspected ..		No Common Lodging Houses situated or regd. within district
9. Slaughter-houses inspected..	88	Bye-laws g'n'r'lly complied with
10. Bakehouses inspected ..		See Report under Factory and Workshops Act
11. Dairies and Milk Shops in- spected		See Special Report
12. Cowsheds inspected		" " "
13. Workshops inspected		See Report under Factory and [Workshops Act
14. Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875.	None	
15. Houses disinfected	37	Sulphurous fumes & formalin
16. Overcrowding abated	1	No. of inmates reduced
17. Houses placed in habitable repair	49	
18. Houses closed	None	
19. Houses erected or re-built for which Water "Certifi- cates" were applied ..		No certificates given, other than certificates of occupation
20. "Certificates" granted ..		
21. " " deferred ..		
22. Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded.	3	
23. Wells cleansed or repaired..	None	
24. Wells closed		
25. Houses connected with sewer	1	Other than those in con- nection with new buildings do.
26. " " with water mains	3	
27. Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed or exist- ing Privies altered.. ..	9	
28. Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	33	
29. Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered		
30. Animals improperly kept, removed	15	
31. Samples of water taken for Analysis	4	
32. Compensation paid for de- struction of infected bedding	None	
33. Seizure of unsound meat, &c.	None	
34. New dust bins provided ..	44	To replace existing defective ones

